

V. Concluding Remarks

This report has endeavored to describe the evolving nature of partnerships between the National Park Service (NPS) and other organizations that extend both the agency and its partners beyond traditional forms of management. Whether new national parks or other Congressionally designated areas administered jointly with a diverse array of partners, these collaborations enable the NPS and its partners to reach new constituencies, commemorate previously overlooked stories, and extend the agency's stewardship practice and message in new ways. These partnerships, designed for the long term, broaden the agency's leadership potential and bring benefits to the entire National Park System, including the more traditional national parks.

Across the United States today, people are working together in community-based conservation initiatives that integrate natural and cultural heritage. The NPS, with its combination of flagship national parks, expertise in interpretation and story-telling, and expanding array of successful partnerships, is uniquely positioned to contribute to conservation practice into the future. As workshop participants observed, it is imperative that the NPS capitalize on the considerable experience both within the agency and with its partners in order to fulfill this potential.

Workshop participants have envisioned a future in which the NPS is a leader—managing national parks in partnership, facilitating resource management through collaborations with diverse organizations and institutions, and assisting local efforts to preserve the important stories that together make up the heritage of all Americans. This report places this vision before a broader audience. By engaging others in this discussion, including all levels of the agency and partner organizations, the NPS and its partners can move to a new, more collaborative paradigm of stewardship.

Photos courtesy of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park



1. The workshop participants outside of the historic carriage barn that houses the offices of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.
2. Workshop participants Sarah Peskin, Jonathan Doherty, partner David Donath, Steve Elkinton, and partner David Startzell, left to right.
3. Partner Augie Carlino, left, and Barbara Tagger, right.
4. John Debo, Barbara Pollarine, workshop facilitator Sharon Behar, partner Jessica Brown, Bob McIntosh, and Chuck Barscz, left to right.
5. Joe DiBello, Bob McIntosh, Warren Brown, and Jonathan Doherty, left to right.

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Lessons Learned in Areas
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Further Reading

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